

10/4/09

“Jacob”

Texts: Genesis 28:1-5, 10-22; 31:1-3, 17-18, 22-30

Purpose: To realize the importance of the choices we make and the fact that God is sovereign over all of life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss Jacob's taking the Birthright from his brother. Was this a legitimate exchange? Was he right in doing it? What is the lesson for us in the story? For further insight read Hebrews 12:14-17.
2. What could/should Isaac and Rebekah have done in the face of Isaac's need to bless his sons before his death, and understanding that it was God's plan that Esau serve Jacob? Can you think of any biblical principles or texts that might help us?
3. Read Genesis 28:10-22. Discuss this remarkable appearance of the LORD to Jacob. What does this reveal about God's sovereign purposes, love, mercy and grace for His people?
4. Pastor Tom suggested that Jacob responded in three significant ways to what the LORD had told him. What are those responses? (28:16ff.) Were these responses appropriate? What about his last response in vs. 20-22? Since Jacob's response is conditional doesn't this evidence lack of faith, therefore God ought to withdraw His promises?
5. What does God dealing with Jacob say about God? What does it say about His love and commitment to you?
6. Discuss the lessons in the story of Jacob that can both enrich our lives and serve as warnings to us.

Children's questions:

1. Tell as much of the story of Jacob as you can remember (let the adults help you).
2. Do you think Jacob was a good person or a bad person? Why, what did he do?
3. Did God love Jacob more when he was good? Does God love YOU more when you are good? Can you remember a verse that talks about this? (Hint: Romans 5:8; John 3:16)
4. What do you think God was trying to tell Jacob in his vision of the stairway or ladder that went up to Heaven?
5. Jacob made some very bad choices during his life. Talk about the importance of making good choices and what might happen when you make bad ones.

